AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the Claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating driver specific information of a driver of a fleet vehicle, the method comprising:

assigning a fleet vehicle to a driver with a computing system, wherein the fleet vehicle is selectable from a plurality of fleet vehicles;

maneuvering the fleet vehicle into a communication zone, where the communication zone is within a fleet vehicle staging area;

temporarily establishing radio communication with the fleet vehicle with a short-range radio transceiver in response to entry into the communication zone; and

communicating driver specific information from the computing system to the assigned fleet vehicle with the short-range radio transceiver in response to identification of the fleet vehicle,

where communicating driver specific information comprises:

transmitting a travel itinerary specific to the driver that includes a scheduled passenger travel plan and an intended destination of the driver, where the scheduled passenger travel plan comprises an airplane flight schedule reservation, and

providing a status update of the airplane flight schedule reservation with the computing system.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, where communicating driver specific information comprises triggering communication between a navigation unit within the fleet vehicle and the short-range radio transceiver absent driver interaction with the navigation unit, where communication is triggered automatically in response to the fleet vehicle coming into range of the short-range radio transceiver.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, where communicating driver specific information includes transferring an intended destination of the driver in the form of a navigation coordinate and a text string indicative of the intended destination.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, where transferring an intended destination comprises automatically displaying navigation information to the intended destination for the driver on a navigation radio.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, where communicating driver specific information includes transferring a vehicle interface setting specific to the driver to the fleet vehicle.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, where transferring a vehicle interface setting comprises automatically adjusting a vehicle operator interface corresponding to the vehicle interface setting.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the initial act of capturing an intended destination of the driver with the computing system and converting the intended destination to a navigational coordinate and a text string descriptive of the intended destination with the computing system.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, where communicating driver specific information comprises establishing communication with a navigation unit in the fleet vehicle that includes a navigation radio, a global positioning system, a vehicle data store and a vehicle interface.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, where communicating driver specific information comprises transmitting a signal with about 1 milliwatt of power.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating driver specific information of a driver of a fleet vehicle, comprising:

capturing an intended destination of a driver with a computing system;

assigning the driver to a fleet vehicle subsequent to the capture of the intended destination, where the fleet vehicle is selected from a plurality of fleet vehicles;

converting the intended destination to a navigation coordinate and a text string with the computing system;

transferring the navigation coordinate and the text string of the assigned driver to the fleet vehicle via a short-range radio transceiver in response to entry of the fleet vehicle into a communication zone of the short-range radio transceiver;

communicating uni-directionally in a radio frequency spectrum of less than 300 MHz with an FM tuner included in the fleet vehicle to transfer the navigation coordinate and the text string; and

displaying navigation information to the driver with a navigation radio included in the fleet vehicle, where the navigation information is based on the navigation coordinate and the text string.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, where displaying navigation information to the driver comprises:

receiving the navigation coordinate and the text string with the navigation radio;

developing a route from the navigation coordinate with the navigation radio for use by the driver to navigate to the intended destination; and

displaying the text string and the route on a display of the navigation radio.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, where the short-range radio transceiver is capable of communicating over a distance of 100 meters or less.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, where the communication zone is limited to a fleet vehicle staging area.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, where converting the intended destination comprises the computing system recognizing that additional information is needed for the intended destination and automatically retrieving from other computers the additional information for the intended destination, and converting the intended destination comprises converting the intended destination and the additional information to a navigation coordinate and a text string with the computing system.

16. – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating driver specific information of a driver of a rental vehicle, the method comprising:

moving a rental vehicle within a communication zone of a short-range radio transceiver;

triggering establishment of temporary communication between the short-range radio transceiver and a navigational unit included in the rental vehicle in response to entry into the communication zone;

transferring driver specific information of a driver assigned to the rental vehicle to the navigation unit via the short-range radio transceiver in response to establishment of temporary communication, where the driver specific information includes driver data, an intended destination of the driver and a vehicle setting to set a vehicle operator interface of the rental vehicle for the driver; and

transferring additional driver specific information from the rental vehicle with the short-range radio transceiver in response to control and operation of the rental vehicle by the driver, where the additional driver specific information includes vehicle operational data and the time the rental vehicle was taken by the driver;

maneuvering the rental vehicle out of the communication zone;

re-entering the communication zone at a later time;

triggering transmittal of a navigation coordinate indicative of a drop off point for the rental vehicle and a return time of the rental vehicle in response to re-entry; and

automatically generating navigation instructions from the navigation coordinate indicative of a drop off point to guide the driver to the drop off point.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, where maneuvering the rental vehicle out of the communication zone comprises:

storing in the navigation unit additional driver specific information that includes at least one of a navigational coordinate and a vehicle interface setting while out of the communication zone; and

triggering further comprises: triggering transfer of the additional driver specific information from the navigational unit with the short-range radio transceiver in response to re-entry into the communication zone.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, where transferring driver specific information comprises automatically applying a vehicle interface setting to the vehicle operator interface of the rental vehicle, where the vehicle operator interface includes at least one of audio settings, seat position settings, mirror position settings, cabin temperature settings, radio tuner sound quality settings and radio tuner radio station settings.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, where automatically applying a vehicle interface setting comprises selecting a radio tuner radio station setting to apply to a radio tuner included in the rental vehicle as a function of the intended destination.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24, where transferring driver specific information comprises converting the intended destination to driving instructions for the driver.

29. (Original) The method of claim 24, where the intended destination comprises a plurality of navigation coordinates indicative of a plurality of destinations and transferring driver specific information includes determining one of the destinations has been designated as a first destination and automatically displaying navigation information to the first destination on a navigation radio.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, where trigger transmittal of a navigation coordinate comprises transmitting to the navigation unit an updated status of a scheduled passenger travel plan reservation of the driver and displaying the updated status.

32. (Previously Presented) A system for communicating driver specific information of a driver of a fleet vehicle, the system comprising:

means for storing driver specific information that includes a navigation coordinate of an intended destination of the driver and an assignment of the driver to a fleet vehicle;

a short-range radio transceiver coupled with the means for storing driver specific information;

a fleet vehicle that includes means for providing navigational directions to the driver, the means for storing driver specific information operable to communicate with the means for providing navigational directions via the short-range radio transceiver in response to entry of the fleet vehicle into a communication zone of the short-range radio transceiver,

where the means for storing driver specific information is operable to transmit the navigation coordinate of the intended destination to the means for providing navigational directions upon confirmation of identity of the fleet vehicle during a first entry into the communication zone; and

where the means for storing driver specific information is further operable to transmit a navigation coordinate indicative of a drop off point for the fleet vehicle in response to re-entry of the fleet vehicle into the communication zone, and

where the means for providing navigational directions to the driver is operable to automatically generating navigation instructions from the navigation coordinate indicative of a drop off point to guide the driver to the drop off point.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the means for storing driver specific information comprises a fleet management application, a data store and a user interface.

34. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the means for providing navigational directions comprises a global positioning system, a vehicle data store, a navigation radio and a vehicle interface.

35. (Previously Presented) A system for communicating driver specific information of a driver of a fleet vehicle, the system comprising:

a computing system configured to store driver specific information that includes a navigation coordinate of an intended destination of the driver, a scheduled passenger travel plan and an assignment of the driver to a fleet vehicle, where the scheduled passenger travel plan comprises an airplane flight schedule reservation;

a short-range radio transceiver coupled with the computing system; and

a fleet vehicle that includes a navigation unit, where the computing system is configured to temporarily communicate with the navigation unit via the short-range radio transceiver in response to entry of the fleet vehicle into a communication zone of the short-range radio transceiver,

where the computing system is operable to transfer driver specific information that includes the navigation coordinate and a current status of the airplane flight schedule reservation to the navigation unit upon confirmation of the identity of the fleet vehicle.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3[[5]]4, where the short range-radio transceiver is operable to communicate with a Bluetooth communication standard.

37. (Original) The system of claim 35, where the navigation unit includes a global positioning system, a vehicle data store, a navigation radio and a vehicle interface.

38. (Original) The system of claim 35, where the vehicle interface includes a communication port to a wireless communication device.

39. (Original) The system of claim 35, where the navigation unit is operable to convert the navigational coordinate to driving instructions.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, where the driver specific information transferred to the navigation unit from the computing system includes a vehicle interface setting, where the navigation unit is operable to apply the vehicle interface setting to a vehicle operator interface of the fleet vehicle and display the scheduled passenger travel plan for the driver.

41. (Original) The system of claim 35, where the driver specific information is stored in a driver profile record, where the driver profile record includes driver data, a travel itinerary and a vehicle setting.

42. (Original) The system of claim 35, where the driver specific information is stored in a vehicle profile record, the vehicle profile record includes a vehicle ID, vehicle specification information and vehicle operational data.

43. (Original) The system of claim 35, where the communication zone is limited to a fleet vehicle staging area.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, where recognizing that additional information is needed comprises the computing system recognizing that insufficient information has been provided to convert the destination information into the text string and the navigation coordinate.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, where the communication zone is the immediate area around an entrance gate and an exit gate of a rental car facility.